**George, Nelson. Hip Hop America. Penguin, (2005)**

Nelson traces the East Coast/West Coast rivalry in hip hop back through time, finding parallels in the attitudes of Harlem Renaissance writers. Langston Hughes, for example, tended to portray rural African Americans from the South as “by turns wise and goofy.” This tension between the naïve rural and the sophisticated urban lies beneath the current rivalry, he argues. Jazz was sophisticated; the blues were simple, raw, and country. (George, 130)

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**West, Cornell. Race Matters. Beacon Press, (2001)**

West argues that “liberal structuralists” (activists who focus on improving jobs, education, housing, and child care systems) and “conservative behavioralists” (who focus on work ethic, self-help programs, and starting businesses) both miss the important social effect of nihilism in the inner cities. He defines nihilism as “the lived experience of coping with a life of horrifying meaninglessness, hopelessness, and (most important) lovelessness. The frightening result is a numbing detachment from others and a self-destructive disposition toward the world.” ( West, 18-23)

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